

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT

This chapter contains an evaluation of the community facilities and services offered by Lumpkin County. This evaluation will help determine future needs and assist in formulating a capital improvements program.

Police and Public Safety

The Lumpkin County Sheriff's Department, located in the City of Dahlonega, is the only police agency in the county. In addition to the Sheriff, the department consists of one major, three captains, nineteen patrol officers, twenty eight detention officers, five detectives, four education offices, four court services officers, one K-9 unit, one animal control and four administrative personnel. The department requires four patrol officers on duty at all times. The county is also responsible for all training of department staff.

The department is engaged in various activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, making arrests, responding to calls, preparing accident reports, providing escorts, serving subpoenas, assisting motorists, making investigations and assisting in local school programs. The activity level of a typical month is found in Table 7-1.

**TABLE 7-1
LUMPKIN COUNTY Sheriffs DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL ACTIVITIES
2002 and 2003**

ACTIVITY	# 2002	# 2003
Family Violence	487	591
Accidents	1,052	975
DUI Arrest	90	92
Drug Arrest	82	76
Drugs/Alcohol	661	833
Speeding	767	796
Trouble Alarms	644	701
Officer Assists	2,854	3,369

Source: Staffing Analysis of the Lumpkin County's Sheriff's Department, Annual Activity Report 2003.

The number of crimes committed in Lumpkin County dropped between 1990 and 2000 from 417 to 352. The county also had one of the lowest crime rates in the area.

**TABLE 7-2
LUMPKIN COUNTY
CRIMES, 1990 and 2000**

CRIMES	1990	2000
Violent Crimes	30	34
Property Crimes	387	318
Total	417	352

Source: Georgia County Guide, 2001. Reported by county agencies to the Georgia Crime Information Center.

**TABLE 7-3
CRIME RATES
LUMPKIN AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES, 2000**

COUNTY	CRIME RATE	RANK IN STATE (1)
Hall	4147.1	123
Dawson	1956.7	49
Fannin	939.66	21
White	2956.9	84
Lumpkin	1730.3	43
Union	1601.5	37

Source: Georgia County Guide, 2001.

The offices of the Sheriff's Department are located adjacent to the courthouse. The department has a total of 32 vehicles including 13 patrol cars, and other support vehicles that are rotated on a four year as needs basis. The county has recently constructed a new jail facility in 2002 that houses over 100 inmates. The detention division employs 35 authorized personnel at the facility.

According to a recent staffing analysis, the Sheriff's Department is in need of more personnel. Local officials estimate that the department needs an additional four patrol officers and one detective. The department has four patrol officers on duty covering the entire county. In the event of an accident or emergency, portions of the

county could be unprotected.

The Sheriff's Department provides police protection to the City of Dahlonega and is required to maintain an officer in the city limits at all times. According to a recent FBI report concerning law enforcement personnel, the national ratio for law enforcement employees for rural counties is 4.2 employees per 1,000 population. Currently, Lumpkin County's ratio is 3.4. To bring the department up to national standards it would have to employ an additional 17 persons. To maintain the current a national level of service in the year 2010 the department will need to employ a total of 128 persons, that would include twelve additional patrol officers and six additional detectives.

In addition to the vehicle rotation schedule, the county will need fifteen additional within the next ten years.

Fire Protection

Lumpkin County has a county-wide volunteer fire department covering an area of approximately 292 square miles. The department consists of a full-time fire chief, eighteen part-time firefighters and over seventy volunteers. One hundred percent of the personnel are CPR certified, 95 percent are certified for crash victim extrication, 75 percent are certified in propane incidents and 70 percent are certified first responders. The department has a wildland firefighting team and a technical rescue team.

The main fire station is located in downtown Dahlonega with five other stations located around the county. The county constructed a new 14,000 square foot emergency services center that houses the fire department, emergency medical services, and 911 center. The station was funded by a county-wide special use tax. The county works in conjunction with the U.S. Forestry Service in answering calls concerning forest fires. The Forestry Service has one station located on Yahoola Road and the Forestry Commission has one located on Crown Mountain. The County also works cooperatively with the U.S. Army Ranger Camp fire unit and with surrounding counties on a first response basis.

The fire department provides all office space, vehicles, and equipment through its operating budget. In terms of vehicles, the department has six engines, six tankers, one ladder truck, one mini-pumper, one heavy rescue, one first responder truck and one fire chief vehicle. (See Table 7-4). The county also has sixty sets of "turnout" gear. Turnout gear is the actual gear worn by firemen during a fire or other related emergency.

According to local fire officials, the department responded to over 900 fire calls from 1995 to 2000.

**TABLE 7-4
FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

VEHICLE TYPE	PUMP CAPACITY (Gallons Per Minute)	HAULING CAPACITY (Gallons)
Engine Pumper	1,750	1,000
Engine Pumper (2)	1,500	1,000
Engine Pumper	1,250	1,000
Engine Pumper	1,000	1,000
Engine Pumper (4X4)	500	500
Tanker (2)	500	2,500
Tanker (3)	750	1,560
Tanker	1,250	---
Ladder Truck	1,500	300
Mini Pumper (4X4)	400	250
Tanker	1,000	1,500

Source: Lumpkin County Fire Department.

**TABLE 7-5
LUMPKIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
TOTAL CALLS**

FIRE CALLS	#	OTHER CALLS	#
House Fires	155	Unintentional False Alarms	45
Vehicle Fires	120	Intentional False Alarms	10
Open Areas and Woods Fires	134	Rekindle	15
Storage Buildings, Barns, Etc. Fires	18	Other Public Services	70
Manufacturing Fires	12		
Public Building Fires	19		
Mercantile Fires	15		
Mobile Home Fires	53		
Chimney Fires	34		

Source: Lumpkin County Fire Department

Although the Lumpkin County Fire Department is predominantly a volunteer based organization, it has a better than average training program that would rival larger departments in the state. The following tables reflect the training programs that the department participates in on an annual basis.

**TABLE 7-6
LUMPKIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL TRAINING PROGRAMS**

TRAINING PROGRAM	TRAINING PROGRAM
Basic Firefighter	Pump Operations - Hydrant and Draft
Fire Department Administration	Tools and Equipment
Portable Fire Extinguisher	Fire Streams
Ropes and Knots	Breathing Apparatus
Fire Hose and Appliances	Positive Pressure Ventilation
Ground Ladders	Salvage and Overhaul
Basics of Communication	Drivers Training
First Responders	Search and Rescue
Incident Command	Handling Hazardous Materials
Hazardous Materials Recognition	

Source:Lumpkin County Fire Department.

**TABLE 7-7
LUMPKIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
STATE AND FEDERAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAMS**

TRAINING PROGRAM	TRAINING PROGRAM
Structural Fire Control (Live Fire)	Using Class A Foam
Fire and Arson Detection	Auto Extrication
Handling L.P. Gas Emergencies (Live Fire)	Managing Fire Department Tactical Operations I
Basic Rope Rescue	Managing Fire Department Tactical Operations II
Basic Search and Rescue	Public Fire Education

Source:Lumpkin County Fire Department

In order to measure fire protection, communities are rated on a scale of one to ten, one being the highest and ten being the lowest. Lumpkin County has a rating of as low as five in and around Dahlonega with a rating of seven to nine in other areas of the county. Ratings are important as they determine local fire insurance premiums. A better fire rating could mean substantial savings to county residences and businesses.

Fire protection will be an important item in the next few years. As the county grows, the fire department will be required to improve its level of service. According to a recent survey of local industries, adequate fire protection should be a top priority of the county. The following is a list of possible actions the county could take in improving its fire department program:

- 1) Update the strategic plan for the fire department. This plan should include a prioritized list of vehicles and equipment along with a plan to locate other substations throughout the county.
- 2) Consider adding additional full-time staff to the department. Six full-time staff members, one for each station, is recommended. Clerical assistance is also needed.
- 3) Increase the number of volunteers throughout the county in order to improve response time.
- 4) Be aggressive in seeking state and federal grants for equipment and training.
- 5) Consider purchasing an additional two engines with a pumping capacity of at least 1,500 GPM and 1,000 gallons storage.

These items would be a step in the right direction in improving fire service in the county.

Emergency Medical Services

Ambulance and similar type medical services are provided by the county's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) department. EMS has seven full time paramedics, five full time EMTs and 10 part-time EMTs. The service has three fully equipped ambulances and one rescue unit. Two of the ambulances are staffed on a twenty-four hour basis. The department receives an average of 2,400 calls per year.

EMS also provides various public services such as safety education programs, health classes, and CPR instruction. According to local EMS officials, within the next year staffing will need to be increase to provide for a 12 hour emergency truck to help cover for the peak period. This will consist of hiring one more paramedic and one EMT to staff the day truck. In the next five years a third full time crew will be needed on a 24 hour basis. This will require the purchase of another ambulance so that one vehicle can be kept in reservice in case of breakdown an dregular maintenance of the vehicle. It is recommended that a new crew and vehicle be brought one every five years in order to maintain an adequate level of service as the population grows.

The Lumpkin County Fire Chief is responsible for the day to day operations of the EMS Department , while the overall responsibility falls under the Lumpkin County Emergency Service Director. The Director of EMS also oversees the local Emergency Management Agency (EMA). EMA is responsible for coordinating all county departments in times of disaster.

Emergency 911

The county now has in place an Enhanced 911 system. This system provides immediate display of the location from which an emergency call is placed in Lumpkin County. The 911 department averages 24,000 call per year.

Within the next year the center will be providing Phase One and Phase Two service for all of Lumpkin County. This information will provide the location and telephone number of all the cellular phone callers that place a call to the 911 Center, which in turn will reduce the response time for the emergency service personnel that respond to the calls.

The center has two people working per shift. This will need to be increased to three per shift in the next two years, and one additional staff person should be added every subsequent five years to meet the demand on the system. It is important to note that as the age of the population of Lumpkin County increases so will the number of calls for emergency services.

Hospitals

Chestatee Regional Hospital is a fifty-two bed facility located in Dahlonega. Services provided by the hospital include: family practice, general practice, obstetrics/gynecology, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, radiology, pediatrics, internal medicine, cardiology, ophthalmology, pulmonology, urology, pathology, and

dermatology. The hospital began an expansion in 1994 offering more beds and reorganizing the interior structure to make it more user friendly. There are 2.47 hospital beds per 1,000 persons in the county.

Along with its many services, the hospital offers a program to local businesses called Corporate Care. This program serves local businesses with such activities as a wellness program, follow-up on worker's compensation cases and immediate medical attention. This program is designed to assist local businesses with employee medical needs, especially those businesses that have no medical staff on site.

The hospital also has a trust fund to assist low income patients in paying medical costs. To qualify, the person must meet federal poverty status guidelines, have lived in Lumpkin County for at least six months and pay at least \$100 of his or her on bill.

Nursing Homes and Personal Care Facilities

Nursing homes and personal care homes are the two major residential type facilities in the county. According to the State Health Planning Agency, a nursing home is defined as a "long-term care facility which admits patients by medical referral and provides for continuous medical supervision via 24-hour-a-day nursing care and related services in addition to food, shelter and personal care. A nursing home may be licensed as a skilled nursing facility, an intermediate care facility or an intermingled facility." The agency defines a personal care home as "a residential facility...providing for compensation, productive care and oversight of ambulatory, non-related persons who need a monitored environment but who do not have injuries or disabilities which require chronic or convalescent care, including medical, nursing or intermediate care. Personal care homes include those facilities which monitor daily residents' functioning and location, have the capacity for crisis intervention, and provide supervision in areas of nutrition, medicating and provision of medical care."

The Gold City Convalescent Care Center is the only nursing home in Lumpkin County. Currently, the facility has 102 beds with 100 being occupied. Gold Hill also operates a private personal care home. The facility is designed to accommodate 40 person and is 98 percent occupied. The other personal care facility, Northwoods, provides 15 beds and is at full capacity with a waiting list.

Senior Center

Lumpkin County has one senior center located just off the Dahlonega East Connector. The present facility is 5,600 square feet in size and includes a recreation room, quilt room, lounge, large activity room, offices and a kitchen. The center provides services to people over 60 regardless of their income level. These services include meals, on-site activities and recreational trips. The center has one vehicle, a passenger van, that is used to take participants on trips and shuttle needy persons back and forth to the center from their homes. The center is funded by a combination of federal, state and local monies. According to local senior center officials, the center will need an additional van due to the volume of persons participating in the program. If the single van is being used for a trip, transportation for other senior citizens is limited. Another van driver would also be needed. The senior center has one full-time director and uses volunteers to assist in all activities including driving the van.

The senior center will play an important role in Lumpkin County over the next few years. As Lumpkin County's population continues to age, it will be pressured to provide more services to senior citizens. The current facility will adequately serve the county for the next ten years.

Public Health Department

The Lumpkin County Health Department is located in the City of Dahlonega. The County Health Department, in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Human Resources, offers a variety of programs including cancer detection, children's medical services, community care, dental health, diabetes screening, family planning, hearing and vision screening, immunization, maternal health, personal care for the elderly, scoliosis screening, heart attack prevention, primary care and environmental health services. These programs, along with many others not mentioned, are available to all citizens in the area.

The Adult Learning/Mental Health Center

The adult learning and mental health center is now in operation, having been completed in August 2002. The county is pleased to offer such a beautiful center for the continuing education of its citizens. The facility was constructed with the assistance from funding from a Community Development Block Grant. The department is under the operation of the State of Georgia District 2, Department of Human Resources. The department receives some operating funds from the County.

The staff of six provides a comprehensive system of diagnostic, in-patient, outpatient, day treatment, residential and employment services and treatment of options for County citizens who have mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse disabilities.

The current level of service provided by the mental health department is considered adequate. Future expansion and funding of mental health services is primarily dependant upon the case load methodology of the Georgia Department of Human Resources and will be addressed by the State as Lumpkin County continues to grow.

Educational Facilities

Public School System

Lumpkin County's public school system consists of three elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. The schools include Lumpkin County Elementary (592 students), Long Branch Elementary (472 students), Blackburn Elementary, (627 Students), Lumpkin County Middle School (906 students) and Lumpkin County High School (952 students). The school system has 473 employees. Of this number, 262 are teachers and 211 are administration and support staff. There is one teacher for every fourteen students. Approximately 60 percent of all teachers and administrators have masters or higher degrees. The Lumpkin County School System provides educational training in several areas including language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign language and health and physical education. The system also provides a vocational and technical education program. Other programs offered by the school system include the Instructional Technology, Special Education, Advanced Placement and Fine Arts.

Both the middle (2000) and high school (2003) facilities were recently constructed to accommodate new growth. A satellite elementary school was constructed in 2002 to address growth needs in the southern part of the county. All of these facilities were constructed using SPLOST funds that were voted for almost 92% in 1997 in the amount of \$8,700,000 and a bond issue in the same amount.

**TABLE 7-8
LUMPKIN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
ANNUAL BUDGET 2002**

BUDGET ITEMS	AMOUNT
Revenues	
Local School Revenues	\$8,385,274
State of Georgia	\$14,106,495
Federal Government	\$1,255,138
Plus Beginning Balance	\$982,614
Total Revenue	\$23,746,907
Disbursements	
Instruction	\$15,910,205
Staff Services	\$1,099,119
General Administration	\$684,289
School Administration	\$1,285,617
Transportation	\$1,479,553
Maintenance and Operations	\$1,761,012,200,000
Total Expenditures	\$23,073,361
Total Balance	\$673,546

Source: Georgia DOE, Ependiture Report, 2002.

Colleges and Universities

North Georgia College and State University, located on a 400 acre campus in Dahlonega, is a four year senior college offering over 50 majors. The college has a total enrollment of approximately 4,200 students. Programs of study provided by the college include biology, business, chemistry, education, english, fine arts, mathematics, modern language, nursing, health, physical education and recreation, physics and social science. The college offers pre-professional programs in dentistry, engineering, law, medical technology, medicine, pharmacy and veterinary sciences. Masters degree programs in nursing, counseling, physical therapy and public administration has been added to the education masters degree program.

The college has a highly regarded ROTC program and is the only public, coeducational, liberal arts, senior military college in the nation.

North Georgia has a Center for Continuing Education. The center is housed in a 6,500 square foot facility offering various non-credit courses to the local community. The college also has a visual and performing arts program and is home of the John L. Nix Mountain Cultural Center that provides plays and concerts throughout the year. North Georgia College is the largest employer in Lumpkin County with a staff of 425.

The college is in the process of expanding two major academic buildings on campus. Future plans call for the renovation of the main administration building which sits atop the original foundation of the old U.S. Mint.

Vocational/Technical Schools

While there are no vocational or technical schools in Lumpkin County, there are several located in surrounding areas. These include Lanier Tech located in Oakwood (Hall County) and in Cumming (Forsyth County), Pickens Tech, located in Jasper (Pickens County) and North Georgia Technical Institute located in Clarksville (Habersham County) and Blairsville (Union County).

Libraries and Cultural Facilities

The Lumpkin County Library is part of the Chestatee Regional Library System. The library consists of over 22,000 volumes and has over 8,000 patrons and had 87,672 visits during FY03. There are five full-time staff persons with four persons working part-time. Over 500 children participate in the library's summer reading program.

The present facility was built in the early 1980's and was designed to serve the county for twenty years. The library has now exceeded its designed capacity. Patrons now have limited seating no study spaces. Collections have grown to the extent that the law library had to be moved to a down stairs storage room. County departments had used the library for meetings, offices and storage space. The library plans to increase its reading selections, especially in the young adult section. Minimum state standards call for 0.6 square feet of public library space per person. Based on population projections, the county library will need a facility of 31,500 square feet to meet growth needs. Other library facilities include those located at the local public schools and at North Georgia College and State University.

Cultural facilities include the John L. Nix Mountain Cultural Center (mentioned previously), Dahlonega's historic public square, the gold coins exhibit on the campus of North Georgia College, the Dahlonega Gold Museum, and the Holly Theater (currently undergoing restoration).

Solid Waste Management

Lumpkin County developed and adopted a Joint Comprehensive Solid Waste Management with the City of Dahlonega. The plan has been reviewed and approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The plan will serve as the vehicle for addressing solid waste management needs in Lumpkin County for the next ten years.

Water Supply and Sewerage Treatment

Lumpkin County has had a water authority since 1984, but it has only served in an advisory role. More recently the county developed a water department and system in the past few years. The system has about eight miles of water lines, primarily in the eastern and southern portions of Lumpkin County. The department facilitated the location and opening of Blackburn Elementary School in south Lumpkin County. The system serves approximately 700 customers in the unincorporated portions of Lumpkin County. The county system purchases some water from the City of Dahlonega and also provides water through a series of several well systems in their respective service areas. Most of the well systems owned by the county were once private community well systems serving large individual private developments. The county continues the practice of accepting selected private water systems into the county water system. The county has obtained property and is seeking a permit from Georgia EPD for the placement and use of a 500,000 gallon water tank at the intersection of Georgia 400 and Georgia SR 60. The tank will interconnect with the existing wells and lines and provide water service to much of the southern and eastern parts of Lumpkin County.

Longer term plans of the water department include obtaining a surface water withdrawal permit and the development of a water and sewage treatment facility, which will provide water services for the entire unincorporated area of the county.

The City of Dahlonega provides water services within its city limits and within limited unincorporated areas. The current capacity of the city's water plant is 1,500,000 gallons per day. Consumption averages approximately 850,000 gallons with a maximum of 1,500,000 gallons per day. The city has a storage capacity of 1,600,000 gallons, which is about a two day supply of water. The primary source of water is Yahoola Creek.

Lumpkin County is in the planning stages of developing and constructing a water and sewage treatment facility. It is anticipated that this facility will come on-line and provide sewer services to the southern portion of Lumpkin County, primarily along the Georgia 400 corridor within five years of plan completion.

The City of Dahlonega has a recently upgraded sewer plant that has a permitted capacity of 1,400,000 gallons per day. The current plant load is 600,000 to 700,000 gallons per day with a peak daily usage of 800,000 gpd. The city will not serve any unincorporated areas unless they agree to be annexed.

The county and city recently completed the construction of the 150 acre Yahoola reservoir along Yahoola Creek, and Ward Creek northeast of Dahlonega. In addition to serving as a water supply, the reservoir will serve some recreational needs

Parks and Recreation

Lumpkin County's Department of Park, Recreation and Leisure Services is a growing service in the county. The department has a staff of thirteen persons including a director, assistant director, maintenance supervisor and secretary. The department also has 22 various seasonal and part-time employees. Programs of the department include football, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis, swimming, and numerous other leisure and community programs. The department has traditionally focused on youth athletics, but has begun to emphasize adult programs. The county has a 21 acre recreational park located in Dahlonega off of the Dahlonega East Connector. The park consists of the following recreational facilities:

- 6 Baseball/Softball Fields (Lighted)
- 2 Athletic Field (Not Lighted)
- 4 Tennis Courts (Not Lighted)
- 1 Outdoor Basketball Court (Six Goals)
- 2 Playground
- 2 Batting Cages
- 1 Pavilion
- 1 Community Recreation Center for indoor competitions, programs and meeting spaces.

The American Legion Pool is the only outdoor swimming facility in the county available for public use. The pool was built in the 1950's and is in need of repair. The Park and Recreation Department has an agreement with North Georgia College and State University to use their swimming facilities.

The county is currently developing a 50 acre multi-use park on Yahoola Creek, two miles downstream from the Yahoola Creek Reservoir. The park is being developed to meet the active and passive recreation needs of the county. The facility will initially include six soccer fields and six fields for softball, baseball and tee ball. In addition, the complex will include walking trails along Yahoola Creek and around the periphery of the facility. The county has long term plans to connect the facility with the Yahoola Creek Reservoir (and a proposed state park) with

a two mile pedestrian trail along the creek. There is also a canoe trail in the county along the Chestatee River.

Based on discussions with department staff, it is estimated that the county needs an additional 60 acres of park land to meet current recreational demands. As with the current facility being developed, parks should be designed to provide both passive and active recreational activities (indoor and outdoor). Based on population projections, by the year 2025 the recreation and leisure services department will need 25 full time and 45 part-time employees to provide the same level of service as it is providing at the current time.

The county has an overall long term recreation master plan, which it follows in addressing the county recreational needs. This master plan will serve to better direct the county in providing adequate recreational facilities and programs through out the horizon of this plan.

There are also numerous recreational areas or facilities operated by the state and federal governments and private groups. These facilities include Cane Creek Falls, the Appalachian Trail, Dockery Lake, the Chattahoochee National Forest, Waters Creek Recreational Area, Chestatee Overlook, Woody Gap Overlook, Desoto Falls Recreational Area, Blackburn Park, and Lumpkin County Park.

Lumpkin County is also a participant in the Georgia Greenspace Program. Lumpkin County efforts to provide greenspace for the citizens have already begun. The County is diligently working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to acquire property along the Chestatee River near the intersection of Highways 400 and 60 where the river enters Lake Lanier. A portion of this property and additional properties to be acquired will be used as passive recreation and is addressed in the Comprehensive Plan and in this greenspace application

It is the intention of the County to continue to identify lands that can be properly and formally protected as greenspace, and to make acquisition where feasible, or the implement other methods of permanently protecting these land wing conservation easements or similar means of accomplishing these objectives.

Lumpkin County envisions itself as adequate community, undergoing tremendous growth. The many streams, creeks, and rivers are focal points for a variety of recreational activities that make the County such an attractive destination. There is a great sense of “community pride” to be achieved by overlapping the goals of environmental protection and quality of life. Therefore, Lumpkin County’s program strives to identify, plan and create a structure that supports the achievement of this vision. Lumpkin County wishes to emphasize protection of our natural resources while to the greatest extent practical making hem accessible to our citizens. We wish to provide linkages between communities, neighborhoods and facilities in such a manner that people are able to relate

to each other as humans and celebrate the outdoors. Lumpkin County is dedicated to the incorporation of permanently protected greenspace in its long-term vision for unincorporated Lumpkin County. The Lumpkin County Greenspace Program seeks to create a comprehensive program that addresses the greenspace needs of all county residents, regardless of whether they live in a rural area or in a developed area, and also provides for local and accessible green spaces that contain a variety of uses.

Transportation

A more detailed presentation and discussion of transportation facilities, programs and services are located in the Transportation Element of this plan.

Roads

Lumpkin County contains over 510 miles of roadway. The state road system comprises 16.4 percent of the total road mileage while the county maintains 78.7 percent. Approximately 80 miles of roadway are unpaved. The goal of the county is to pave all county-maintained roads, which will contribute tremendously to a reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation problems.

**TABLE 7-9
LUMPKIN COUNTY
ROAD MILEAGE, 2003**

ITEM	NUMBER
Total Miles of Roads in Lumpkin County	510.92
Rank in State	120
Total Miles of State Routes	84.11
Total Miles of County Roads	401.97
Total Miles of City Roads	24.84
Total Unpaved Miles (All Roads)	79.435
Percent of Total Miles Unpaved (All Roads)	38.6
Total Paved Miles (All Roads)	431.49
Percent of Total Miles Paved (All Roads)	61.4
Rank in State of Total Paved Miles	80

Source: Georgia County Guide 2001.

Traffic volume along Lumpkin County's roads has increased over the past decade. The latest traffic counts indicate that State Route 400 is the most heavily used road in the county. This is followed by Georgia 60, State Route 9 and State Route 52

The Georgia Department of Transportation is involved with several road projects in the county. These include a request to add passing lanes to State Route 52 from County Route 190 to County Route 253, construction of the Dahlonega South Connector from State Route 9 to State Route 52, and resurfacing and shoulder work along Long Branch Road (a very heavily traveled county road) from Georgia 400 to State Route 52. The county is working with the State under the federal bridge assistance program to set priorities regarding various bridge projects throughout the county.

The widening of Cavender Creek Road was completed to accommodate heavy truck traffic. This route is in the "pre-planning" stage and is not a priority project. There has been a great deal of discussion regarding an east-west connector extending from Dalton to Toccoa. While this is not a new idea, it has received a great amount of attention over the past year. A committee of federal, state and local officials is in the process of studying the feasibility of the project. The committee is focusing on possible routes and anticipated environmental impacts. This route is being considered due to the limited access from east to west in North Georgia. It has not yet been determined whether the route should be a new four lane divided highway or if existing roads, with passing lanes, would suffice. Due to the fact that the project is in the early stages of planning, it is difficult to estimate its impact.

General Government

Lumpkin County has one county commissioner with other elected constitutional officers. In January 2005 the commission will expand to a five member commission for governments. County departments include Fire, Sheriff, Emergency Medical Services, Road, Economic Development, Landfill, Solid Waste, Planning, Park and Recreation, Senior Center, Clerk, Registrar and Tax Assessor. Administrative offices are located in the courthouse in Dahlonega. In regard to land use planning, the county has land use code, subdivision regulations, a mobile home ordinance, multi-family development regulations, erosion and soil sedimentation control ordinance, parkway development regulations, a sign ordinance and a building permit ordinance.

The majority of all county funds come from taxes followed by general government revenues as well as SPLOST and LOST funds, charges and user fees, licenses, fines and other taxes. Of the taxes collected, property taxes generate the most funds, just over 35% in 2003.

The county also shares some services with the City of Dahlonega. The county and city have evaluated and negotiated the delivery of local government services through the Service Delivery Strategy, which issue is addressed in the Intergovernmental Coordination Element of this plan

Approximately 30 county administrative employees are housed in the courthouse service in various departments and activities. In spite of recent renovations, work space and meeting space is limited. The county will need to expand to provide adequate space for court and county administrative services by 2005. It is recommended that the county commission a study to determine the long term needs for county administration and court services.

**TABLE 7-10
LUMPKIN COUNTY
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES, 2003**

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	2003 BUDGET (\$)	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
General Government	1,774,996	13.62
Public Safety	5,019,179	38.51
Judicial	1,476,100	11.33
Public Works	792,406	6.08
Health and Welfare	368,916	2.83
Culture and Recreation	1,023,611	7.85
Housing and Development	523,372	4.02
Capital Outlay	67,602	0.52
Debt Service	87,250	0.67
Transfer Out	1,898,698	14.57
TOTAL	13,031,950	100.00

Source: Lumpkin County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, 2003.

SUMMARY

Inventory

- ! The Lumpkin County Sheriff's Department has a staff of 71 persons.
- ! The department receives hundreds of calls a month.
- ! Lumpkin County has one of the lowest crime rates in the area.
- ! The Lumpkin County Fire Department is staffed by one full-time chief and seventy volunteers.
- ! The Fire Department has its main station in Dahlonega with six stations located around the county.
- ! Between 1995 and 2000, the Fire Department responded to over 900 fire calls.
- ! The county's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) has a staff of 7 full and 15 part-time personnel.
- ! EMS receives about 2,400 calls a year.
- ! The county is currently Phase Two of the enhanced 911 system.
- ! Lumpkin County has one hospital providing a total of fifty-two beds.
- ! The county has one nursing home and two personal care homes.
- ! The Lumpkin County School System consists of 3,550 students, 262 teachers and 211 administration and support staff. The school system has a budget of over \$23 million.
- ! North Georgia College has a student enrollment of 4,200 and a staff of over 400 persons.
- ! The Lumpkin County Library consists of over 22,000 volumes and has over 8,000 patrons and 87,000 visits annually.
- ! The county has a growing and expanding water system, but currently does not have a sewer system. The City of Dahlonega provides both services in and around the city.
- ! The county is in the process of planning the construction of water treatment and wastewater treatment facility to assure an adequate water supply and sewer services in the county.
- ! The Park, Recreation and Leisure Services Department is providing excellent recreation opportunities to the citizens of Lumpkin County. The department also administers the county greenspace program.
- ! The county has a 28 acre recreational complex located in Dahlonega and is currently developing a 55 acre complex on Yahoola Creek.
- ! The county has one public airport consisting of one 3,000 foot runway.
- ! The county has approximately 511 miles of roads. The state maintains 16.5 percent of the total road mileage while the county maintains 78.7 percent.

- ! State Route 400 is the most heavily used road in Lumpkin County.
- ! Lumpkin County has a sole commissioner government and is expanding to a five member commission in 2005. The county 2003 annual budget was\$ 13 million.
- ! In spite of renovations, the county courthouse is near is capacity for optimal use.

Assessment

- ! The Lumpkin County Sheriff's Department is presently understaffed. To provide adequate coverage, the department will need 17 additional employees, including four patrol officers and one detective. The department will need a total staff of 128 by the year 2025 to provide an adequate level of service.
- ! The Fire Department has twoe full-time employees. An updated strategic plan should consider the need for additional full-time personnel, one at each station in the county and an administrative assistant at headquarters.
- ! The Fire Department will need two new engines in the next ten years as well as a ladder truck.
- ! EMS will require a new rescue truck in the next five years and one new crew and vehicle every subsequent five years through the horizon of this plan. As the county population increases in age the number of calls to EMS increase accordingly. The county may be able to address this issue through the use of part-time personnel serving part time shifts.
- ! The senior center will play an important role in the county as the population continues to age. The center is adequate to serve the county population through the year 2015.
- ! The county has a shortage of meeting and storage space. A records management system should be considered in order to reduce the need for storage space.
- ! The county needs to develop another 60 acres of park land, including another community center to meet recreational demands by 2025. Some of this will park land will come from the county's greenspace plan and participation in the state greenspace program.
- ! The county should commission a study and plan to develop the long term facility needs for local and state courts and county administration.
- ! As the population ages and the retirement population grows in Lumpkin County, a need will arise for additional personal care facilities.

Public Facility Strategies...

Ensure the rational and responsive expansion, improvement, development and outfitting of public service facilities according to need, current and future population, land use and suitability, user safety and comfort, public accessibility, community objectives, and optimum use of public funds.

Ensure that infrastructure keeps pace with new development. Develop a 20 year Facilities Capital Improvement Plan and program tied to the County's Comprehensive Plan, to be updated every 5 years.

- ③ Program public services and facilities in development areas as outlined on the Future Land Use map.
- ③ Adopt public service and facility standards to ensure new development will only be approved when the facilities to serve it will concurrently be available.
- ③ Conduct a needs assessment to determine which public services do not currently meet local needs, may be eliminated or modified, and identify the potential implementation of public services that are in demand locally but, are not currently provided.
- ③ Require all construction, expansion, and alterations to public facilities comply with or exceed all local, state, and federal standards, including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Program adequate operation and maintenance costs prior to expansion of all community facilities and services.

Develop a long-term maintenance plan for community facilities.

Solid Waste Strategies...

Implement an on-going monitoring of the amount and composition of the solid waste generated within the County in order to have sound information upon which to base solid waste management decisions and to determine if state-wide and local goals have been met through the waste composition database.

Utilize the 20 Year Capital Improvements Plan as a mechanism to:

- ③ Ensure solid waste treatment and disposal requirements serving Lumpkin County meet regulatory requirements and are in place when needed to support and facilitate effective solid waste handling programs today and for a 10-year period.
- ③ Ensure proposed solid waste handling facilities are sited in areas suitable for such developments, are compatible with surrounding land uses, and are not considered for location in areas which have been identified as having environmental or other land use limitations.

Emphasize education and public relations activities to increase awareness of current programs to reduce the solid waste stream, including source reduction; composting, recycling and personal waste reduction programs, as well as, the implications of non-compliance.

Water Provision Strategies...

Review the potential for development of public water and sewer service for the unincorporated areas of the county.

Investigate the possibility of contracting with Dahlonega to expand water and sewer service into the unincorporated areas of the County.

Encourage the expansion of water and sewer only in areas planned for more intense development in order to discourage intrusion into rural areas.

Public Safety Strategies...

Maintain adequate jail/detention facility space that meets applicable state/federal standards.

Maintain and upgrade the 911 system countywide.

Evaluate capabilities of fire fighting equipment and improve/upgrade equipment where appropriate, consistent with local resources.

Require development to meet all applicable building and fire prevention codes.

Hospitals and Other Public Health Facility Strategies...

Continue to work with the Lumpkin County Board of Health to develop and expand programming to meet the needs of the County's citizens.

Monitor demographic trends to ensure adequate health facilities are in place to meet the needs of an increasing mature population.

Recreation and Open Space Strategies...

Secure adequate future sites for passive and active recreational activities by identifying sites possessing the foremost combinations of natural features, size, and location, suited for the type of experience to be provided.

Update current facilities or develop new facilities as needed, in order to meet current shortfall in demand, such as tennis courts, soccer fields, ball fields, and equestrian facilities, as part of the overall recreational facilities planning process.

- ③ As part of the overall recreational facility planning process, provide adequate site areas and facilities for both active and passive recreational opportunities, centrally located in relation to existing and planned residential areas, serving all residents within a targeted travel time.
- ③ Consider the distribution of current and future population when planning for new park facilities and enhancing existing facilities.
- ③ Target the development of additional opportunities for passive and natural activities, and facilities such as rest areas, campgrounds, lookout points, and interpretive areas.

Encourage developers to reserve open space within or adjacent to proposed development sites.

Seek to jointly use public school properties for community recreational programs and activities when not in use by the public school system.

Cultural and Library Strategies...

Maintain library capacity to meet and exceed the current user population.

Educational Strategies...

Support/cooperate with the Board of Education to provide a public school system that enables all students to realize their highest potentials as individuals and members of society, by maintaining facilities that are not operating at over-capacity conditions in pace with enrollment.

- ③ Develop a clear coordination process between the County and the Board of Education in order to maximize opportunities in the selection of future school sites and the expansion of existing sites.
- ③ Encourage early land reservation by the County and Board of Education to minimize future land costs and obtain best sites.

Continue to promote local opportunities for human resource development and employee training.

Provide adult literacy programs and enhance education of adults.